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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/776,461

02/10/2004

Todd Vernon

45098.00011.UTL1

3587

36183

7590

09/20/2006

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EXAMINER

SMITH, CREIGHTON H

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2614

DATE MAILED: 09/20/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/776,461	<b>Applicant(s)</b> VERNON ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Creighton H. Smith	<b>Art Unit</b> 2614	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on RCE filed on 31 AUG '06.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-42 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 10-17, 20-29, and 31-42 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 8, 9, 18, 19 and 30 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1- 7, 10-17, 20-29, 31, 32, 40-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Roseman '636.

Concerning applicant's arguments that Roseman's system gives the Requester special privileges not afforded to Invitee participants to the conferencing system, applicant's attention is referred to col. 3, lines 55-56, where Roseman discloses that some conferences include a "brainstorming free-for-all, where numerous people can speak at once." This disclosure by Roseman does contemplate equal privilege levels for all participants to the conference. In col. 2, lines 38 et seq, Roseman discloses that "[e]ach participant can place a document on the table electronically, write on the document, draw on it, and otherwise manipulate it, and move a pointer to different positions on the document, to point to specific parts of it." Roseman further discloses in lines 49-50 that the participants can privately whisper or pass notes to each other, without the knowledge of others. Therefore, this evidence shows that there are equal privilege levels among all participants and that there are no special privileges afforded to the conference initiator. In col. 4, lines 40-45, Roseman discloses that two parties, during the conference can invite other participants to join the conference.

In regard to applicant's arguments that Roseman does not teach a current presentation section, nor a control section including an opened presentation feature, Roseman does disclose in col. 8, lines 1-5 & col. 7, lines 54-65, that each invitee can transmit a file to a host and the host will place the file on the table, where all participants can see it. The "table" is disclosed by Roseman in col. 7 as a common display area which is shown to, and available for work by, each invitee, such as each invitee modifying an image. Therefore, Roseman does disclose applicant's "current presentation section."

Applicant's "opened presentation feature" reads upon Roseman's disclosure in col. 9, lines 15 et seq, where he states that whispering/sub-conferencing may take place, in that any participant to another without being heard by others. By "clicking onto the picture of another" this reads upon applicant's "control section" whereby any participant may independently open and control a presentation (whispering/sub-conferencing) at any time during the collaboration/conferencing session.

Roseman '636 discloses a multimedia conferencing system, where multiple parties are linked by audio and video, Abstract. The 2nd to last sentence in Roseman's Abstract discloses that "any party may modify the display, by 'writing' on it, or by pointing to different parts of it; the other parties can see the modifications." In col. 11, lines 18-23, Roseman discloses that documents may be shared in the conference room by placing them on the table, by dragging an icon of the object from the users non-meeting room window onto the table. If the object owner wishes, the object may be

copied, borrowed by others, or given to others. The object may be altered by anyone given permission to do so. In lines 33-37 of col. 11, Roseman discloses that object manipulation is achieved by users individually. Each users pointer may be used simultaneously for drawing, typing pointing, writing, etc. In lines 38-48 of col. 11, Roseman discloses that the room may be used to impose discipline on the meeting procedure. The room would require that certain procedural issues be followed before allowing a vote, or before someone was allowed to speak. In col. 12, lines 29-45, Roseman discloses that “the requestor may wish to hold a conference wherein ideas are freely exchanged among the participants.”

Therefore, Roseman allows each of the conference’s participants an “equal privilege level”, as per claim 2. Regarding claim 3, Roseman discloses @ col. 11, lines 44-46, that “[w]ithin the room a talking queue might be built so that only one person would speak at a time, followed by the next person and so on.” This meets applicant’s limitation of allowing the participants to be in a “presenter role,” as per claim 3. For claim 4, see Roseman @ col. 11, lines 18-30. For claim 6, see Roseman @ col. 12, lines 40-45. For claim 10, see Roseman’s discussion of “object manipulation” in col. 11, lines 33-37. For claim 11, see Roseman’s @ col. 3, lines 14-17. The central, host, computer is the server. For claim 12, see Roseman’s discussion of sub-conferencing (whispering) @ col. 9, lines 15-21. For claim 23, see Roseman’s col. 8, lines 40-65. For claims 27 & 28, Roseman discloses @ col. 8, lines 53-55, that ‘participants can order their own recordings of selected time intervals. This “selected time intervals” reads upon applicant’s recitation of information displayed in the live history section ca(

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be independently adjusted by the participant. Regarding claim 31, the formats which the user has to choose from are audio and visual.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 33-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roseman '636.

Roseman discloses "icons" and double-clicking to actuate a program in col. 12, lines 12-13. A person having ordinary skill in the art with this reference in front of them would have it obvious to have utilized an icon to represent any of a multitude of different objects

Claims 8, 9, 18, 19, 30 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Creighton H. Smith at telephone number 571/272-7546.



11 SEP '06

Creighton H Smith  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2614